

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system comprising:
a light transmitting sheet and a light source;
the light source being positioned in proximity to and adjacent to an edge of the light transmitting sheet, wherein at least one of two opposing surfaces of the light transmitting sheet carries markings, wherein the markings are disposed randomly within each of at least one nominal area of the at least one surface and range in length from 0.1 to 10 mm.
2. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein both the opposing surfaces of the light transmitting sheet carry markings.
3. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the area of markings coverage in each nominal area is from 0.1 to 99%.
4. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the area of markings coverage in each nominal area is from 1 to 40%.
5. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each nominal area is of equal size.
6. (Previously amended) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each nominal area is of a different size.
7. (Previously amended) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the markings coverage in each nominal area is the same.
8. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the area of markings coverage is different in each nominal area.

9. (Cancelled).
10. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the marking range from 0.3 to 3 mm in length.
11. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the marking are of an irregular shape.
12. (Previously presented) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the markings are screen printed directly on to the surface of the light transmitting sheet.
13. (New) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a fluorescent tube.
14. (New) An edge-lit illumination system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the markings have a length of from 0.3 to 3 mm and a width of from 0.5 to 1 mm.
15. (New) A method for masking imperfections, such as scratches, in a light transmitting sheet of an edge-lit illumination system, which comprises providing a light source in proximity to an edge of the light transmitting sheet and illuminating the light transmitting sheet with said light source, wherein the light transmitting sheet has two opposing surfaces, at least one of those surfaces carrying markings of from 0.1 to 10 mm in length and being disposed randomly within each of at least one nominal area of the at least one surface.
16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the markings range from 0.3 to 3 mm in length.
17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the light source comprises a fluorescent tube.